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The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 21 March 5, 2001

Athletics proposes another fee increase

Centre for Physical Education's plan would raise fees by $12

By Adam Giles

Another year, another proposed athletics fee increase.

The Centre for Physical Education (CPE) presented its budget to the Quality Service to Students (QSS) committee last week and it proposed that full-time students pay $12 more for athletics out of their incidental fees. QSS decided to reconvene on March 8 to vote on the budget and proposed fee increase, which would raise the full-time fee to $95. Newly-hired Director of Athletics Ken Duncliffe explained the proposed increase by breaking it down into three parts:

– An $8 increase to support inflationary wage increases.

– A $2 increase to equip the facilities with extra employees.

– A $2 increase to create a capital reserve fund.

According to Duncliffe, the increases, which the athletics Governing Council has already approved, will allow the CPE to operate more smoothly.

"What we've tried to do is address the specific concerns of the day and make sure that we don't move backwards. We don't want to be robbing from other areas of the budget," he said.

Understanding your athletics fees

	Last Year	This Year	Next Year
CPE fee	$0	$83	$95**
ECARA fee*	$62	$0	$0
UTMAC fee	$0	$8.60	$8.60
Total ath. fees	$62	$91.60	$103.60

* ECARA was dissolved last year and the fees it collected were split between the CPE ($53.40) and the UTMAC ($8.60). Then the CPE raised their fee to $83 for this year.

** A $12 increase would bring the CPE's fee to $95 starting next year.

Duncliffe said the CPE needs the $8 inflationary increase because the entire CPE staff (except for Duncliffe) and CPE employees (like Fit-stop attendants and league commissioners) are unionized and

Athletics continued on page 2

U of T continues investigation of accused law student liars

By Tamara Sulliman

The University of Toronto is investigating approximately 30 first-year law students who have been accused of misrepresenting their fall term results to Bay St. Law firms.

In a letter to the law school community, Faculty of Law Dean Ron Daniels said, "It goes without saying that the faculty and the university regard communication of a falsified academic record as a serious breach of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. Indeed, misrepresentation of a student's academic record is at odds with the core values of this faculty and our university – integrity, academic excellence, and intellectual rigor. It is also at odds with the core value of honesty so deeply imbedded in the fabric of the legal profession."

Rumours about the misrepresentation of grades surfaced earlier in February within the prestigious U of T law school. A front-page story on the allegations in the February 13th edition of the Ultra Vires, the law school's student newspaper, sparked initial inquiries made by the dean of the Faculty of Law. Daniels noted that upon receiving evidence of the possible academic representation, the faculty launched a full investigation and notified every first

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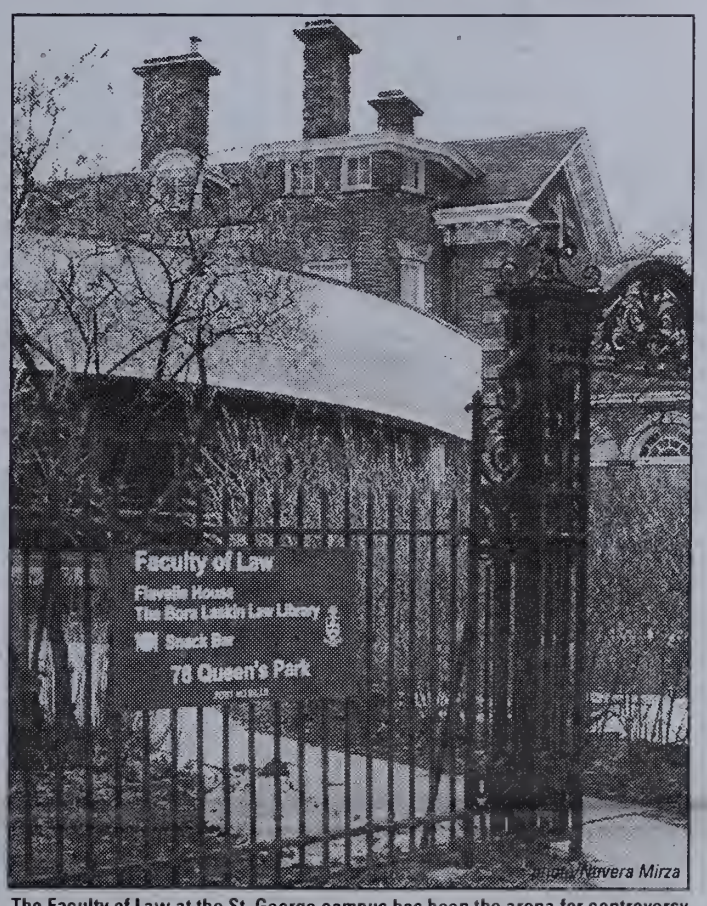

photo: Naveera Mirza

The Faculty of Law at the St. George campus has been the arena for controversy lately. Several law students are suspected of lying about their December marks.

Blind Duck making a comeback halfway through the year?

By Marko Perovic

The Blind Duck Pub's struggle to stay alive over the past two years has been no secret. Following a successful first Pub Night, student interest rapidly declined, leaving management with a greater overhead than customer revenue.

Last November, the Blind Duck's financial crisis forced ECSU to cancel Pub Night for the first time in twenty-five years. Furthermore, Aramark (the pub's food distributor) refused to remain open on Fridays, causing the pub to close because the liquor law does not allow a bar to operate without selling food.

photo: Naveera Mirza

With sagging attendance this year, how much longer can the Blind Duck Pub survive? The pub has managed to remain open on Thursday nights since January.

For January 2001, ECSU, pub management, and Aramark decided to reopen Pub Nights as well as open the pub on Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This was only to be done on a trial basis that would be up for review February 2.

So far this year, the Blind Duck has experienced mixed success. While staying open on Fridays has not been very profitable, it has been balanced with an improvement on Thursday's Pub Night. Rose Oliveira, ECSU Vice President of Finance, said, "Fridays have incurred a loss of $150 over four weeks. It's not a lot but it's still significant. Thursdays have improved. Every Thursday until the end of the semester has an event booked so that is very promising. It's nice to see that the clubs have taken an interest in the pub's future."

Aside from the getting clubs involved in pub night, ECSU and pub management have collaborated in coming up with other innovative ideas designed to encourage a greater turnout on pub night. "In addition to the clubs, there are also many programming events coming up including a wrestling show, Beach Pub, and a concert featuring *See Spot Run*. These theme nights get the students out as they change the atmosphere of the pub and make it more interesting," said ECSU President Preena Chauhan.

"As long as the pub is not losing money on a Thursday, I believe we should continue to keep it open. It is unacceptable in my view to be closed on Thursdays. There have been some really good nights at the pub this year, and it would be shame to remain closed for the rest of the year."

Another improvement over last year is that ECSU has not had to spend any more money on the pub this semester. Oliveira attributes this to Maxine Dawkins, pub manager, for cutting ECSU's spending costs to a bare minimum without jeopardizing the business.

Olivéira adds, "The pub is not a money-making operation. It doesn't make money for itself and it definitely doesn't make money for ECSU, it simply sustains itself. If we wanted to make a profit, than Maxine wouldn't try her best to give students the best possible price she could offer. ECSU looks at the pub as a service

Pub fights continued on page 3

What's Inside

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Don't suck cock, build up the muscles in your middle finger instead"
– J. Englishman gives UTM students a rule to live by, page14.

COME TO PUB THIS THURSDAY
BLIND DUCK PUB
COME BY THE PUB AND CHECKOUT OUR DAILY SPECIALS
CHECK OUT
MARTINI MONDAYS
TOONIE TUESDAYS
IMPORT WEDNESDAYS
MIXED THURSDAYS
GET DRAFTED FRIDAYS

Nader speaks at Convocation Hall

By Nicole Phillips

"What can people do when a political leader, such as Jean Chretien or George W. Bush, aren't responsive to environmental issues?" a reporter asked Ralph Nadar at his press conference last Thursday.

"Don't elect them," he said with a grin.

Ralph Nadar, the presidential candidate for the Green Party in last year's U.S. elections, spoke last Thursday evening to a packed Convocation Hall on the issue of Green Citizenship, an event organized by the Students' Administrative Council in conjunction with various groups inside and outside the campus community. The event highlighted the end of the SAC Environmental Week held last week.

Born and raised in Winstead, Connecticut, Nadar developed an interest in the distribution of power in the American society early in his life. He went on to Princeton University where he graduated in 1955. He then went on to Harvard Law School and graduated in 1958 with his law degree.

During his years at Harvard, Nadar researched the legal topic 'the engineering design of automobiles.' His research lead to the publication of an article he wrote in *The Nation* in 1959 called 'The Safe Car You Can't Buy.'

He wrote, "It is clear that Detroit today is designing automobiles for style, cost, performance and calculated obsolescence, but not – despite the 5,000,000 reported accidents, nearly 40,000 fatalities, 110,000 permanent disabilities and 1,500,000 injuries yearly – for safety."

A few years later, in 1966, his actions influenced a series of safety laws to be passed, which forced automobile companies to drastically change their design to promote safer cars.

Justin Saunders, the SAC University Affairs Commissioner, introduced Nadar by describing the speaker's active role in the formation of various

☞ *Nadar continued on page 5*

Committee on the Office of the Ombudsperson

The term of the University Ombudsperson, Ms Mary Ward, ends on June 30, 2001. According to the Terms of Reference of the Office, she is eligible for re-appointment. Coincident with the end of Ms Ward's term, the Governing Council is responsible for undertaking a review of the Office.

At the meeting held on February 8, 2001, the Governing Council approved the establishment of the Committee on the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Mandate

The Committee on the Office of the Ombudsperson is asked to:

1. Review the Terms of Reference for the Office of the University Ombudsperson and, in light of the experience since 1998, consider whether any revisions are needed.
2. Review the effectiveness of the Office's operations.
3. With respect to (1) and (2) identify "best practice" at peer institutions.
4. Make a recommendation to the President for transmission to the Governing Council on the appointment of an Ombudsperson, effective July 1, 2001.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Committee will consult appropriately within the University community and beyond.

The Committee will submit its report by April 30, 2001

Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Ms Mary Anne Chambers (Chair), Ms Jenny Carson (Graduate Student), Mr. Brian Davis (Administrative Staff), Professor Ian McDonald (Teaching Staff), Ms Jacqueline Orange (Alumni), Mr. Fayez Quereshy (Undergraduate Student), TBA (Part-time Undergraduate Student)

Ms Cristina Oke will serve as secretary. She can be reached at (416) 978-8427 (voice), (416) 978-8182 (fax) or c.oke@utoronto.ca. The Committee welcomes submissions which should be sent in confidence to the secretary at the following address:

Office of the Governing Council, Simcoe Hall, Room 106, 27 King's College Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

Submissions may also be sent by fax or e-mail. The deadline for submissions is **Friday March 16, 2001.**

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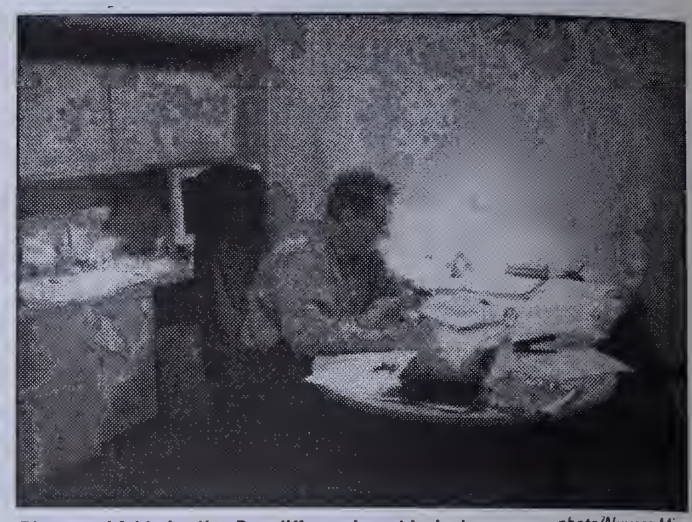
Athletics seeks second-straight fee increase



photo/Nuvera Mirza

Director of Athletics Ken Duncliffe works at his desk, crunching numbers, trying to balance his department's budget. The Centre for Physical Education is proposing a $12 fee increase.

Continued from front

collective bargaining agreements raise their wages. Chandra Gilbert, the University of Toronto at Mississauga Athletic Council's (UTMAC's) Women's Intramural Representative, said the CPE will have to deal with mandated salary increases regardless of the $8 increase.

"The eight-dollar fee, from what I take out of it, is non-negotiable. If QSS decides to reject the fee, this money will come out of other areas. This may include a cut in services, hours, or programming. This would be bad for the students, especially those who want to use the gymnasium later at night," said Gilbert.

> "We'll probably look to build on the capital reserve fund [next year] and meet any pay raises resulting from collective agreements"
> – Ken Duncliffe

According to Duncliffe, the CPE needs the $2 increase for additional employees to address safety concerns and because the Fit-stop is understaffed.

"It's over and above health and safety. Extra walkabout staff, people with specific training that would lend support to users of the facilities, would help. There are longer lines at the Fit-stop, so extra staff there would help," he said.

Duncliffe said the facility is moving towards a system where Fit-stop staff could swipe the student cards of facility-users to reduce the line-ups.

"I think [the fee to support additional staff] is essential, especially on the weekends where there is only one fit-stop member in on the morning shift. Should a problem arise, campus police has to be called in order to deal with a sometimes-minor situation. This $2 would also allow for a staff member to walk around and monitor how the equipment is used. This would definitely reduce the amount of injurics since most of the injuries are due to improper usage of the weights," said Gilbert.

Duncliffe proposed a $2 increase to establish a capital reserve fund to save up for "big-ticket items." At $2 per full-time student, the department would expect to kick-start the fund with $11,000.

"I think it's a necessity, not a luxury. Most universities have capital reserve funds for significant purchases or repairs rather than beg every time they need something," said Mark Overton, UTM Registrar and Chair of QSS.

Duncliffe said the CPE would let the fund accumulate until it needed the money. As an example, he said there's probably only about two years left in the department's van – the CPE uses the van to drive inter-faculty teams to other campuses – until it will need to buy a new one.

"I understand that the department used to have a fund set aside for significant purchases or repairs, but it's either depleted or drained by other parts of the budget. It will give us the opportunity to plan for large expenses," said Duncliffe.

"The capital reserve fund will benefit students by not taking money out of programming or services. Since students will have a say in how this money will be used, the student's interests will be heard. When the van broke down last year, it cost the department more money reimbursing drivers and ordering buses," said Gilbert.

UTMAC President Yasin Ozturk also thinks the creation of a capital reserve fund "is a good idea."

According to Duncliffe, the CPE would likely ask for an additional fee increase next year to support the fund and to keep up with rising wages.

"We'll probably look to build on the capital reserve fund [next year] and meet any pay raises resulting from collective agreements," he said.

Last year, Provost Adel Sedra threw $300,000 at the department for renovations but, according to Programme Coordinator Jack Krist, "There was significant overspending in the areas of renovations." He said unforeseen costs forced the department to dip into other parts of its budget.

Newly-appointed SAC Erindale Chair Neil Menezes, a QSS voting member, said he's glad that the voting has been postponed until Thursday.

"I really feel that I don't have enough information. What they want to do makes sense – it would be nice to have it, but at the same time, athletics fees have really jumped in recent years. Yes, $95 is a good price compared to other athletics facilities, but a lot of students will still be opposed to paying for something they don't use," said Menezes.

"Back in my first year, I was promised that I'd get full use of the facilities after paying the orientation fee. Then, they raised the incidental fees. To me, that's a breech of contract."

U of T investigates 'lying' students

Continued from front

year student that their applications must be promptly withdrawn from the law firms if their grades were misrepresented.

Each of the implicated first year students must attend a meeting with a designated faculty member to discuss the matter and explain the discrepancy.

"These are not disciplinary procedures," said the university's vice-provost, Paul Gooch, to the university's department of public affairs, "and this is not a process to determine guilt or innocence. Rather, the investigations are to get to the facts in the face of differing accounts of what happened. Only on the basis of a full and factual report can the allegations be assessed and the rumours put to rest."

The investigation has implicated law professor, Denise Réaume, who had allegedly advised students to present a grade of A to the Bay St. Law firms to protest against the pressure that law firms apply to obtain the marks of the December exams. These exams are practice tests and do not affect the final grade.

The probing investigation into the role played by Réaume, a tenured professor of torts law at Osgoode Hall, has led to two open letters, one from twenty-three professors at Osgoode Hall and the other from eight international professors. These letters attest to her integrity and question the decision of the university to announce an investigation when they were aware that she could not defend herself as she was in England at the time, attending a conference at Oxford University.

"We know Professor Réaume to be a principled scholar of utmost integrity, who is renowned for speaking out against dishonesty and duplicity. By publicly announcing an investigation before hearing from Professor Réaume, the university has fueled a situation where the circulation of unproven allegations and innuendo may cause unjustified, irreversible damage to her reputation," wrote the twenty-three law professors of Osgoode Hall.

"Professor Réaume's reported views concerning the justifiability and feasibility of an act of collective civil disobedience were expressed in a small class discussion.

We urge the university to restore international confidence in its fidelity to this core academic mission by promptly discontinuing any investigation of Professor Réaume's actions," stated the eight law professors hailing from countries such as England, Scotland and the United States.

President of the University of Toronto, Robert Birgeneau, expressed his support for the actions taken by the dean of the Faculty of Law and the Provost's Office in a letter to the eight international law professors.

"It would be entirely wrong for us not to make our very best effort to identify the facts that may have played a role in the students' conduct, even if that involves a faculty member."

"To protect both academic freedom and academic integrity, the process must proceed in a dispassionate, judicious and timely manner. I support the efforts that are now under way and I hope to see a prompt resolution to this regrettable matter."

UTM Principal Robert McNutt stated that he had no comment to make on this matter.

However, he noted, "I think we are all clear on what procedures [the Provost] plans to follow. I will await the outcome on what the university does."

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Pub fights to break even

Continued from front

that we provide to students, not a money-maker."

However, despite this slight improvement, the Blind Duck's future still remains unknown. Dawkins said, despite positive feedback from students who attend the pub, more people need to come out.

"Students need to support the pub or else it won't be here in the future and UTM will be one of the only universities without a pub."

ECSU and pub management are working hard to ensure the pub's survival. Currently there are a few ideas pending on how to improve the pub.

"There has been ongoing discussion this year to change the pub name. Ideas put forth include "The Aquarium" and "The Duck Pond." If pub management and ECSU do change the name, we will definitely see huge changes at the pub. Currently there is no theme in the Student Centre. I think the pub really needs a facelift and a new image in order to attract more students and change the atmosphere," said Chauhan.

ECSU and pub management say the Blind Duck will remain open as long as the students want it open.

Although there have been some improvements in the new year, it is not enough.

More student support is definitely needed to ensure that the pub is still available for future generations of UTM students. Thursday evenings are lined up with events for the rest of the year.

Will the Blind Duck survive the problems it has been undergoing for the past two years? Oliveira thinks so.

"Just like the rest of this building, it will take time to adapt to the change of atmosphere and location. I have confidence that business will pick up as soon as students begin to utilize the building more," she said.

Travel Cuts lands at UTM

The long-awaited East Wing space-filler has finally arrived. Travel Cuts has finally filled the poorly-planned area. Sorry about the staged photo. It will never happen again...maybe. *photo/Nuvera Mirza*

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR U OF T SESSIONAL FACULTY

A group of sessionals has begun meeting, for the purpose of forming a union for U of T Sessional Faculty. To assist this endeavour, they have contacted the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the union that represents sessionals at many other universities, including York and Ryerson.

Why a union for U of T sessionals?

U of T sessionals lag far behind other – unionized – sessionals in salaries, job security, benefits and academic supports. This, despite the large and increasing volume of teaching performed by this part of the university's teaching staff.

We intend to change that.

To do so, we need your help. At least 40% of all of us must sign a card indicating our interest in a union, before the Ontario Labour Relations Board will conduct a certification vote.

If you would like to sign a card, or want further information, contact Derek Blackadder at (416) 292-3999, 1-800-362-0974, or at dblackadder@cupe.ca

CUPE
On the front line

Nader visits Con Hall

Continued from page 2

organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Consumer Product Safety Administration (CPSA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Democracy and the Environment

Nadar's first words expressed the need for democracy as the first step in attaining any influence on environmental issues. Nadar stressed the need for more citizen involvement in politics and environmental issues.

"The democratic system is not strong enough to face corporate power. Citizens need to work together," he said. "We need to go through a phase of unlearning and rediscovering old knowledge in order to gain a new awareness of global corporations and their part in environmental preservation. Is it diminishing, worsening or are they indifferent to the problems?"

Corporations and the Environment

"Environmentalism is embedded in the minds of Americans whether democratic or republican." Nadar stated. But he then states that, "corporations are inefficient and wasteful in the products they use. In North America they waste up to 27% of the world's energy. The only reason we're getting away with our wasteful consumption and pollution is because there are billions of people not doing the same thing but who are striving to reach North American standards of living."

"The U.S spends hundreds of billions of dollars on weapons every year. It would cost $32 billion a year to feed and give clean water to all the poor people in the world."

Nadar reinforces his point of corporate neglect of the environment.

"One of the major problems with corporations is that they implement the science before they know the science. For example, they used cars before they knew the effects of emissions."

Corporatization and Universities

"Corporatization is a heated issue within universities," Nadar stated. "Research priorities are being shaped by biotechnology companies, computer companies and other major industries. Many researchers aren't allowed to subject their hypotheses to peer review due to the confidentiality contracts they sign with companies."

Nadar also stated that there is a significant difference between corporate science and academic science. "Corporate science is closed and secretively driven. Academic science is open – there is free exchange of ideas and peer reviews."

Corporations pressure researchers to focus their research in the areas they're interested in, in order to gain "short-term profit maximisation. For example, pharmaceutical companies focus on lifestyle drugs such as Viagra rather than finding cures for devastating diseases such as malaria or tuberculosis. There is no money in the malaria vaccine – profits are gained in the drugs you take everyday."

Nadar believes that the university experience is supposed to let students learn new principles, become enquiring minds, and leave out the corporate view, but this is not so.

"Do you know what determines your course content?" he asked, stirring interest in the audience.

"The job market. For example, if there was an increase in corporate crime, you can bet that there would be courses and programs available to law students in these areas."

Nadar lectures around North America on issues of corporate influence and power and encourages citizens to create a government responsive to citizen's needs.

Student Centre exposer a repeat offender?

Johanna Kristolaitis

Many UTM students have read about the man exposing himself in the Student Centre's Fire Place Lounge. Unfortunately, this was not the first such incident this year.

On November 16, around 7 p.m., a man fitting the same description came into the Fire Place Lounge and began to read a book. Eventually, he struck up a conversation with the female student who was also reading in the room. Later, she reported to Campus Police that he somewhat resembled the face on the posters concerning the death of a baby found in the Credit River. She also reported that at one point during the conversation, she noticed his zipper was down.

When reading the article in The Medium about the incident on February 3, this female student thought, at first, the article was about her particular incident. Upon realizing that it was a second incident with seemingly the same man, she decided to return to Campus Police to clarify what had happened. In fact, he had exposed himself that time as well.

"The fact that the young woman initially reported that the man's zipper was down was not looked at as an important factor at the time," said Len Paris, Manager of Police Services.

"For one, it was not stated that he was exposing himself, and secondly, we were focused on whether he was the man related to the death of the baby, which he was not."

Again, if you see this man or anybody else who seems suspicious to you, get to a safe place and call Campus Police. They will be happy to check out the situation, even if it turns out to be nothing serious. Also, never hesitate to give the full details of a situation: they need to hear everything in order to do their job to the best of their abilities.

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EDITORIAL

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 21 CIRCULATION 5000 MARCH 5, 2001

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Mandatory usage

EDITORIAL

In keeping with the spirit of taking, Athletics has proposed another fee increase. At the risk of sounding redundant, the fee increase should not be a mandatory charge.

The fee increase seems justified. As Athletics director Ken Duncliffe stated, the $12 increase for union-regulated wages, extra equipment and employees, and a capital reserve fund, appear justified – if you're using the athletics facilities.

Full-time students already pay $83 for UTM athletics. They also pay $23.14 for St.George athletics facilities. Since this fee split is already ridiculous – administration can argue that students are getting a deal, but to pay for two facilities in two different cities makes no sense – any mandatory increase at this point is ludicrous.

Athletics will be better off, no doubt. And the department may even offer a better service to students. But what difference does it make if students don't use the facilities?

Again, others may argue that paying a mandatory fee will encourage students to exercise and stay healthy, which every student should do, but the logic of paying for two campuses already makes administrator's arguments foolish. There is no justifiable reason for paying a mandatory fee for a service that some students may not be *able* to use.

A University that encourages freedom of choice should realize this.

Need money?

Want to support your DVD habit?
Want to buy that plastic end for your hockey stick?
Want to pay off debt?

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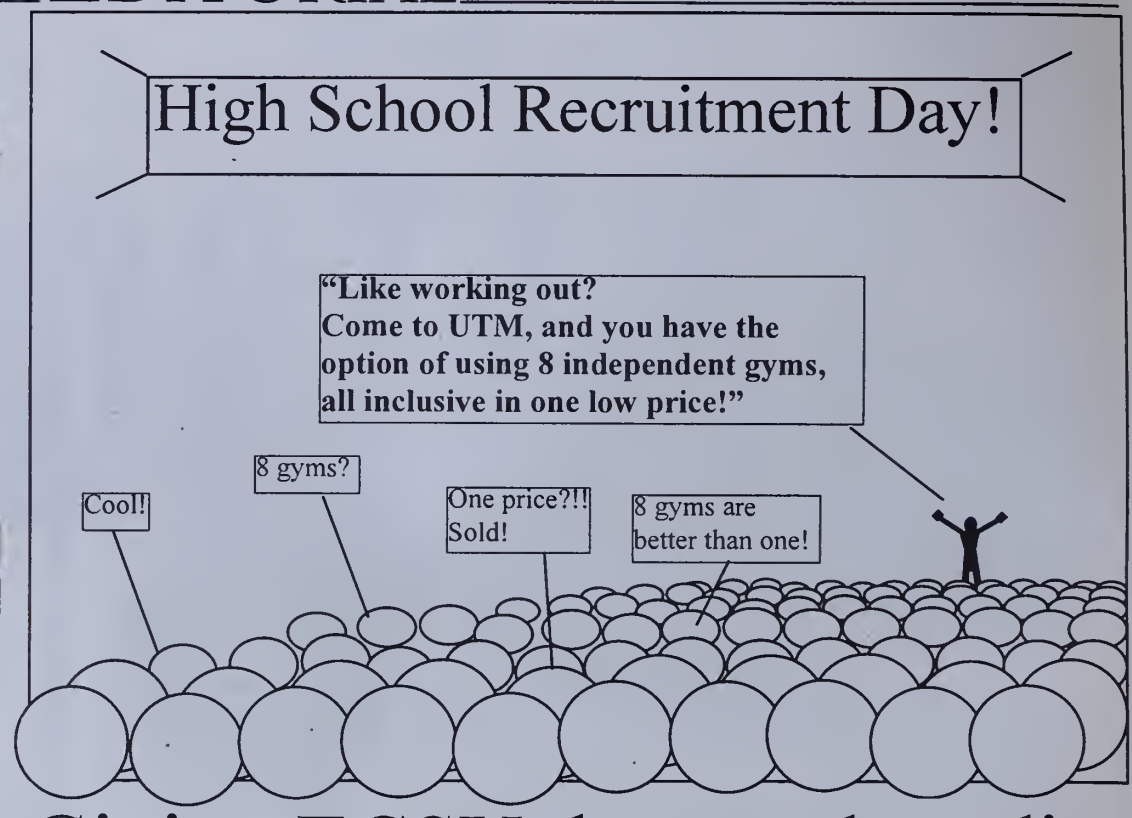
Fri Yvette's back! tracy, yvette and I played Golf outside Yvette and I practised a sword fight with hockey sticks. We'll perfect it next week Stopped by pub Good times Shout outs to Astrid, Agnes, and Carol Ann. Adam played the Russian National Anthem at 7 am Beautiful Yvette has been with us for ten hours, and has only edited 1 story maybe we shouldn't pay by the hour. Sit. Where the fuck is everyone? Adam and I created a song out of Jackie's humming laugh. Brilliant. The Printer is so close to death. You may notice there are no grey boxes this week, ink is a comodity. We have a fax machine!! Now we just have to assemble it. Shotgun not doing it! Sun. Where the fuck is everyone? Lawrence, thank you for your help again. One day I'll pay you back for everything. I can't understand why club corner wasn't printed. Did I revue and Jackie think I wouldn't notice? The medium has become so quiet on the weekends. no more pranks. No more head injuries. Mess is still here though. Why don't the janitors ever come to clean anymore? I guess it makes sense. I wouldn't clean here either. Hollow Man is so bad, but I still loved the FX. There I said it. 5:30 pm. Adam and Jackie left. 3 more to go. Napster appears to be dying, there will be another 6pm. Astrid is out Cyrus said he needed a half hour to sort out his life before he comes in. Simpsons was great. Nikki, good luck in Morocco. Thank you, Jackie's house, for letting us use your television. Here's the deal. One day, me and a posse of friends, will fly to Paris. As soon as we get there, we but tickets to the Opera in Paris, for two weeks later. In the mean time, we split up into groups, and we all have to take different routes to get to Cairo. We have to document our trip, to prove that we made it. It'll be a race, and we have to meet back in Paris on the night of the opera. who's in? We finally have "cock" in the quote of the week. Jen doesn't use soap, ever fuckin nasty.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Giving ECSU deserved credit

Re: What is ECSU Anyway?

Dear Editor,

I feel some parts of last week's editorial were somewhat misleading with respect to ECSU's productivity. Yes, this year has challenged ECSU. However, the Board members still standing have accomplished a lot – including their intended goals.

In your editorial, it states that ECSU's accomplishments this year are limited to only a 'Dick's Guide to UTM,' Frosh Week, and a few events in the Student Centre. This is not the case. Last term's events included a live Latin concert, student appreciation days, ECSU sponsored pub & theme pub nights, and Oktoberfest. Thursday Pub Nights and Fridays at the Blind Duck Pub have been reopened, as both were cancelled in the first term. Thursday Pub Nights have also been booked with special events by ECSU, SAC, and campus clubs – right up until last pub.

This term we have worked with the Student Centre Programmers to produce events such as a *See Spot Run* concert, "Environmental Awareness Week," "Don't Stress Event" and "WWF Live!" The ECSU Board has also lobbied for changes in the Student Centre, including the furnishing of the Presentation Room and the allocation of quiet study space. Other initiatives we have taken on include creating a Midterm Test Bank, administering a lighting survey on campus, and getting the ECSU web site running. This has been in addition to our routine responsibilities.

From the beginning of our term, our council has been understaffed. This means that everyone on our Board has had to work harder and take on extra projects. This in itself has added stress to everyone's workload. However, we've all been willing to make this year work. I would like to commend the ECSU Board of Directors for persevering and working hard through a tough year. Despite this year's shortcomings, we have stayed focused and have done a commendable job maintaining the integrity of ECSU.

Respectfully Yours,

Preena Chauhan

ECSU President

The importance of ECC

— Opinion by Wesley D. Hayward

All totaled, there are seventy-five positions available for students on the Erindale College Council (ECC). While the elected members of SAC, ECSU, and other student groups automatically fill some of these positions, the majority of them remain open for interested students to occupy. Yet if you attend an ECC meeting, you will see no more than five or six student representatives. And still, students have the nerve to complain that student opinions and concerns are not considered by the administration here at UTM. The reason the administration does not truly consider the views of students is because they don't have to. Why should they, unless we force them to consider what we students think.

The ECC is the forum through which students have the best opportunity to influence what happens here at UTM. If a full contingent of seventy-five students showed up at an ECC meeting, they would be able to stop or at least pose significant opposition to any motion that is presented to the ECC. Before a student complains that his or her concerns are not considered by the administration, perhaps he or she should tell someone on the ECC their concerns, or, (here's a novel idea) get involved and do something about them instead of complaining. Do you want administrators to listen to your opinions at UTM? Then tell your elected ECC representative to actually attend the meetings, or join the ECC and attend the meetings yourself.

I'm not saying that students should, on principle, simply oppose all the actions of the administration and the ECC, but to try and ensure that student opinions are considered on important matters. The ECC accomplishes a great deal here at UTM, and quite frankly, the administration is probably much better suited to run this sort of endeavor. Very few students are concerned with the long term effects and actions that are typically considered by the ECC. Students tend to only be focused on what will happen in the next two or three years, since these are the only things that will directly affect them. Yet this is not the sort of vision that is required to operate a University - where things tend to operate on the time scales of years and decades, rather then weeks and months.

This should not, however, give the administration the right to do what ever they want. The concerns of today's students are likely to be the same as those of the future. Thus, we should ensure that our concerns are respected by the administration, just as it was the duty of our predecessors to ensure that their concerns were met with, so that future students (us) are not in a bad situation.

The ECC meets on the first Thursday of every month at 3:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Come out to a meeting and see if this is something you want to join. If it isn't, find someone who does want to be a part of it. It's about time that the administration was forced to consider the wants and needs of students. At the very least, all of the students who hold elected positions on the ECC should show up. It's disgraceful that the people who are elected by UTM students to represent their needs to the administration don't even show up to ECC meetings. ECC is the forum where students can have the greatest amount of influence over the administration.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not be published. Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or *The Medium*'s Board of Directors. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read, and agrees with, this Policy. Please submit letters on disk.

OPINION

The game of Monopoly

By Cesar Furtado

Being the kind of person that I am, I think a lot about food. Whenever I have my lunch break, and I don't bring my own food, I buy a lunch, a snack, or a drink from one company - Aramark. I haven't noticed until now that Aramark has such a dominant position on our campus. They run Spigel hall, the Greenery, the Blind Duck pub (food-wise, ECSU does the drinks, and is getting screwed over in the process, but that's a topic for another article). Aramark also caters all the events held on campus. Once I did find out, however, I began to investigate why Aramark has so much power.

Approximately 2 years ago, UTM administration signed a contract with Aramark to be the exclusive food-services provider. Much like the monarchs of Europe granted their court favorites or wealthy nobles monopoly charters in exchange for money or favours, our administration provided Aramark with an entry barrier to prevent any other future competitors from setting up business at UTM. This exclusivity contract, in as much as it prevents other businesses from providing food services at UTM, has its consequences. Having such a dominant company like Aramark on our campus greatly hinders competition.

Some may argue that having Aramark as the sole food provider is not such a bad thing. Some may argue that Aramark does not exercise its monopolistic power, and charges the same prices and offers the same level of quality as it would if it had real competition. If this was true, then why would Aramark want an exclusivity clause. If it offers the same prices and quality as it would with competition, then competition would do little or no harm to Aramark, and Aramark would be free of the financial burden of paying the administration for a monopoly clause.

Another argument is that Aramark did UTM a favor by agreeing to provide food at so many locations, because no one else wanted to come here and set up business. If this were true, if Aramark has such a natural monopoly, then why would Aramark want or need an exclusivity clause in its contract to keep competitors away.

Aramark is a business like any other. It would not pay for an exclusivity clause if it didn't need one. Any price it would pay for an exclusivity clause would have to be more than made up for in additional revenues it would capture by being 'the only game in town.' Without competition, Aramark must be able to make enough revenue for the costs of obtaining exclusivity to be worthwhile. How does Aramark capture these additional revenues? By charging higher prices and offering a lower (and thus less costly) level of quality than it otherwise would under competition. Granted, Aramark may lose some customers by offering lower quality and charging higher prices. But since UTM is a captive market - because competition is so weak here - Aramark can still capture more revenue as a monopoly.

I certainly don't blame Aramark for the state of affairs concerning our food service. If I were in Aramark's position, I would do the same thing. It's smart business practice. Student's can't hate Aramark for this. Hate the game, not the player. Aramark didn't create this game, they just play it well. If we want to correct this situation, getting rid of Aramark is not the solution, because giving a virtual monopoly to any single business will result in similar consequences. Companies like Aramark have to be disciplined, not through regulations and sporadic complaints over prices and quality, but through the discipline of real competition. You need market forces to restrain self-interest, so that this self-interest promotes socially optimal outcomes. For market forces to be powerful enough, you need real competition. Ridding UTM of this exclusivity clause would see to this, and allow us to find out whether or not Aramark really is acting competitively, or whether it's acting as a monopolist.

It's about time students at UTM have better food. It's time other businesses be allowed to set up to allow more variety. If students want to set up their own businesses at UTM, like a convenience store, they should be allowed to do so. It's about time clubs at UTM be allowed to choose whether they want to use companies other than Aramark to cater their events. The administration should allow free enterprise to reign free. Exclusivity must be eliminated. Monopolies make me sick to my stomach.

www.twodollardrinks.ca

Impeachment aftershocks

Dear Editor,

I am writing concerning the recent impeachment of former SAC UTM chair Sommer-Anne Dhun.

My aim is not to further scandalize the issue surrounding Dhun's impeachment. I do, however, feel more people should be aware of certain things. I am writing out of concern for Dhun. The image that students now have of her, thanks to previous reports, is incorrect. I feel that she was railroaded and humiliated unnecessarily.

As an outsider looking in, it seems to me that Dhun did some things to upset her co-workers. Her colleagues then decided to humiliate her and take her position away. They never once gave her the opportunity to rectify the situation, and that is not a fair or professional move.

I am not saying that Dhun is an angel. Nobody's perfect.

Furthermore, it was brought to my attention that another SAC UTM member has, at times, spoken to students in a less than professional manner - something that Dhun was accused of doing. How come this person has not been reprimanded? I have observed Dhun, and see her as a hard-working, conscientious and intelligent person. I would be very surprised if she was doing as poor a job as her co-workers claimed.

Jaslyn McLean

Tamiko Brown

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FEATURES

Process versus Product:
How do Universities measure learning?

By Tracy Moniz

"How do you tell the dancer from the dance?" asks Dr. Cleo Boyd, director of UTM's Academic Skills Centre. The answer: You don't. A dancer should not be seen as separate from the dance he or she performs, just as the dance itself can not be appreciated without appreciating the dancer who delivers the performance. The same holds true for learning, and how learning occurs.

To "learn," according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is to "gain knowledge or understanding of or skill by study, instruction, or experience." Students come to university to learn, and to receive a higher form of formal education. How do universities measure learning? Does an 80 per cent final mark reflect learning? Or, can 80 per cent simply reflect short-term memory and not necessarily learning? How does learning occur?

What's happening?

Academic institutions typically emphasize product – the essay score, the test score, the score on the final exam, the overall final mark in a course, and cumulative G.P.A. – and not necessarily the process – the learning that occurs to achieve the product. "We are becoming more aware that universities are assessing the product and not the learning," says Boyd. "We want to create transferable learning where the product is the information base."

Transferable learning reflects skills and information applicable to different situations, disciplines, and job markets. In this way, students can select from their information database to solve a problem or to deal with an issue that may arise. Learning facts to score an 80 per cent on a test does not reflect transferable learning.

Marks, marks, marks

Universities target product and G.P.A. For many disciplines, instructors evaluate student learning according to results from a few tests and essays over the course's duration. How effective an indicator of learning are tests? Essays?

Tests and exams based on multiple choice and short answer questions are product-based evaluations. Higher results suggest more learning. But, higher results may instead reflect a student who retains more information over the short-term, rather than a student who has truly learned to apply the test information. If tested spontaneously one week later, perhaps that student would not know most of the information learned for the test. Has this student really learned anything?

"We have to assess learning and not the amount of information being recalled," says Boyd. "If the idea is learning, it doesn't matter if students have the exam questions ahead of time. If it's a product-based exam, then the product is all you're after," says Boyd. Boyd believes this devalues the product and devalues the experience of delivering the product. "You only need the pieces of information to write the exam, and then you can forget. Students simply memorize information and don't use it. Many do not want to use the information. Learning isn't happening. Students collect pieces of information, and are not given the glue that puts it all together," she says.

Emphasis should not be on either product or process, but on integrating both product and process. The product, the 80 per cent final mark, is irrelevant if the student does not learn anything in the process.

What to do?

Process-based learning is learning that observes a student's progress in a course. Boyd believes that this can occur in any course, in any discipline, with any class size. "What distresses me the most is the assumption that this can't be done in large classes. Integration and emphasis cannot happen without knowledge," says Boyd. Although introductory courses need to work on basic concepts with students, integration needs to happen in second to fourth year courses so "real" learning – transferable learning – can occur.

> "I have a holistic view of the learning experience. I find that interaction with professors and dialogue with professors, as mentors, enhanced my learning," says Professor Jean Mason,

Integrating the learning process with the product of learning can occur by creating the ability within the classroom to practice, to make mistakes, to learn from mistakes, to correct mistakes.

Learning is a process. More often, universities target product – the final mark, the handed-in essay – and don't leave room for the process.

How many essays have you had returned with a few red marks indicating grammatical errors, and a final mark circled on the last page? Maybe a few notes in the margin? The amount of feedback given varies with the instructor, but in situations where little or no feedback is offered, how can a student improve or learn from his or her errors? Students and instructors often do not meet unless the student initiates a meeting.

The human touch

Interaction between instructors and students, and between students themselves, is part of the learning process, a part of the process not typically encouraged. "I have a holistic view of the learning experience. As a teacher, I spend enormous amounts of time with students. I find that interaction with professors and dialogue with professors, as mentors, enhanced my learning," says Professor Jean Mason, of UTM's Professional Writing program.

Mason takes a "very collaborative learning approach" in Professional Writing and Computer Communications (WRI305H). "We really are a learning community. My expertise is creating a learning environment where we build on each other. Learning should be fun – a lot of hard work – but enjoyed. Students interact with each other and with themselves. WRI305H hopes to send students away with skills they need to succeed. In the business world, things either work or they don't. You're expected to find what's not working and fix it. We have to make the learner a part of their evaluation process. It's very tough for students to get used to this," she says.

Boyd acknowledges this challenge. "The danger in this is that it puts the student in an environment that the student has not been in before. This is threatening. If a student does not perceive a safe environment, they don't get the product – the final learning. Universities need to create a save environment of trust."

Process-based courses

Courses should focus on how themes play out, and on applying what is being studied. "Courses at UTM exist where the process and product integrate, so you can't tell the dancer from the dance," says Boyd. "The brain works so you don't realize you're building (knowledge) until it is already built."

Courses in the Professional Writing program, for example, achieve this. As process-based courses, Professional Writing courses emphasize the writing process and integrating writing techniques learned through the course to various contexts. The product is a final portfolio of work – a portfolio that reflects feedback from instructors and peers, that reflects time for editing, for drafting, and time to learn and make changes over the duration of the course.

"With a course like Expressive Writing (WRI203H), in the process of learning, you come away with a lot of information. This is the way learning happens. You take information away through the process."

Refocusing

Universities need to shift the focus to process, and focus less on the end product. Process had, traditionally, been undervalued in education. University structures in place for marking and evaluating students do not support this. "Emphasizing product and not process shuts learning down. There is an intense focus on marks. A lot of courses don't ask you to think. They ask you to absorb and give back. In some courses, you have to absorb to learn something," says Mason.

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What is it about Religion?

BY KAMARA JEFFREY

Religion. The word evokes a variety of sounds and images. From a single statue of Buddha to several icons of Hindu gods and goddesses, from lively melody of gospel music to the mystifying sound of ancient chants, such images rest among those that come to mind with the words "world religions."

These images also indicate how complex and diverse religion is. Simply observing contemporary society increases awareness of how important it is to study and understand the complexity of religion. Religion remains among the major factors behind some of the world's most dreadful conflicts, such as those in areas as Ireland and the Middle East, clashes that often lead to human suffering and death. Religion can act as a positive force. The customs and values that come from religious doctrine shape everyday life for some people.

What is religion? It is virtually impossible to capture the essence of religion in a single definition. One dictionary explains religion as "the system of belief in and worship of a supernatural power or god." This definition speaks true to a certain extent, but leaves out the major affirmation of all world religions - that human life has an objective beyond the "ordinary," and that the reality of everyday life contains "something more."

The religious structures, doings, and gestures are reminders of, and ways of participating in this "something more." Performing religious rituals resonates as one of the aspects common to all major world religions. Religious rituals can be expressed in countless ways, such as quiet meditation and elaborate services consisting of the rhythmic repetition of chants and prayers.

photo/Jennifer Matotek

Latin Cross

Buddha

What compels people to follow religion? Observe religious communities locally and internationally. Culture determines, to an extent, the religious belief a community. Most people around the world are members of a particular religion because that religion is deeply rooted in their culture. Years of tradition, stories, beliefs, and values get passed down from one generation to another and inevitably become entrenched within the mind. In a sense, religion can grow into a way of life.

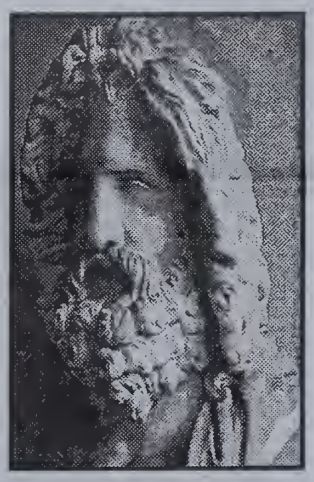
This is not necessarily the case in present Canadian society, particularly in metropolitan cities such as Toronto. "In the past, religion was very much a part of our cultural framework," said Professor Miller, a professor of religious studies at UTM. "As we move into modern times we adopt more secular norms and values."

Ishtarj

Fear can possibly reside as another factor that influences a person's religious beliefs. Consider the many different religious communities around the world. In many instances, it is taboo to dispute or question one's religion. Religion is deeply rooted in many cultures, so religious defiance may lead to serious consequences. Fears of condemnation, persecution, or social isolation are apparent in these societies. One may find it easier to comply with the norm rather than risk such consequences.

Ganesh

According to Miller, pursuit of the truth is the most important factor influencing a person's religious beliefs. "People are searching for meaning. They are attempting to give an explanation for concerns and questions about the meaning of life, death, and creation." This being the case, religion will remain an essential aspect of human society, regardless of the religion.



Zeus

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Retraction:
In last weeks article, "Richard Nathanial Wright," author Jon Sarpong was not responsible for the sub-headline "The Wright Brother." The Medium apologizes for any misunderstanding.

Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

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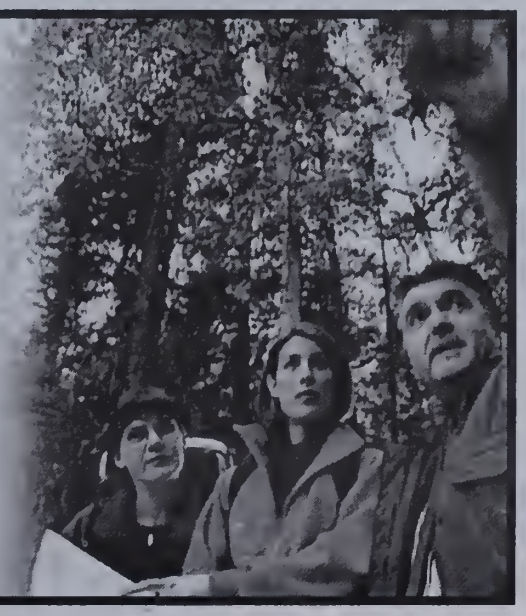

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"Our Stories"

Driving Home

BY ADAM GILES

I look at the fuel gauge on my dashboard as I turn onto Eglinton Avenue. I can only see the edge of the letter 'E' underneath the yellow needle. I can make it to work, but when I drive home, I'll be coasting on fumes. With my elbow out the window, I hold the steering wheel straight with my thumb and run my right hand through my hair.

'Always on the Run' by Lenny Kravitz fades away and Alan Cross' voice shakes, hesitates, and shakes though the shabby speakers of my 1989 Oldsmobile. He says something about an upcoming EDGE102 contest and I push button four on my radio - 103.3. Talking.

I push button five - Q107. Talking.

I push buttons one, two, and three - 97.7, MIX 99.9, and 104.5. Talking, talking, talking.

I turn the 'tuning' knob to 97.3. Bette Middler…ugh.

I peel my thumb off the steering wheel and reach it over to flick the signal indicator up. I turn right onto Mississauga Road. As I turn, blazing sunlight hits my face. Mississauga Road runs in a straight line directly towards the blinding sun. I throw my right hand in front of my face to catch the sunlight.

I peel my hand from my forehead, squint hard, and feel around for the 'tuning' knob. My hand smears and taps across the face of the radio until I get a hold of the 'tuning' knob and turn to 103.5. House of Pain's 'Jump Around' plays. I smile, release my grip on the 'tuning' knob, and hold my hand, like a visor, over my eyes. Ryan Lewis used to casually limp into every one of my grade nine classes singing this song as his hands spun invisible records out in front of him.

I saw Ryan two nights ago actually. I saw him for the first time in seven years.

***

I sat in the Erin Mills Town Centre food court with Richie, Tracey, Amie and Mark. We would have eaten at J.J. Muggs, but they had too long of a wait and we had to eat quickly because 'The Legend of Bagger Vance' started at 10 p.m. at the Coliseum. After I finished eating, Mark slapped my arm and said, "Let's go get a drink."

We walked to J.J. Muggs downstairs and told the host, who greeted us with wide-open eyes and raised eyebrows, that we were just going to the bar.

"Let's get ripped," Mark said, as his blonde hair bounced against his forehead. His smile creased lines in his red cheeks.

"I can't man, I'm driving tonight."

"Fuck, get someone else to drive your car." I smiled and looked at the bar. I turned back to Mark. "Nah, I can't."

Mark pressed his lips together and tilted his head. "Alright, we'll just get a little ripped."

Mark leaned into the bar, waived the bartender over. "What's a good shot?"

The bartender jammed a towel into a glass mug, wiped the inside, and squinted his eyes. He pulled his hand out of the glass, threw the towel in the sink, and pointed at Mark. "There's one shot…I forget what it's called…but it should do the trick."

"What's in it?"

"Uh…Tequila, Jack Daniels…"

"Yeah, two of those," Mark interrupted.

The bartender turned his back, grabbed five bottles off the rack, and mixed our drinks. I leaned on the bar, looked at Mark. "This is gonna hurt."

Mark smiled. I shook my head and turned around. I turned around and looked straight into the chest of a huge, huge, mammoth of a man facing me. He must have been six-foot-six, 350 pounds. The shoelaces of his dirty and ripped white running shoes sprawled along the floor. He wore baggy, baggy blue jeans, but his stained grey sweater and his blue jean jacket hugged his upper-body tightly. A thick gold chain dangled around his neck and sparkled with reflected light from the bar behind me. He held a giant glass mug - just smaller than a pitcher - half full with golden fizzing beer. I looked up at his face. His eyelids drooped down lazily over his eyes underneath the shadow from the brim of his black, wool New York Yankees cap. He looked at me. His lips parted and he smiled a big smile. His face looked familiar.

"Adam fuckin' Giles," he said as he thrust his hand towards me.

I slapped my right hand into his hand and we shook.

"Ho-ly shit," I said, still sure that I knew this person. Where do I know him from? Where? High School. He was in my grade nine class. What's his name?

"Ryan Lewis," I said.

"Yo, what the fuck'ya been up to bro?" he said.

"Nothing man, just going to school, working," I said with a nod.

"You still want to be a cop bro?"

"A cop? What do you mean?"

"Yeah man, a pig, a cop, a terminator like Arnold Schwartzenegger. You wanted to be a cop in high school. You follow in your old man's footsteps, or what?"

"Oh…nah, that's not for me."

"So where you going to school bro?"

"U of T."

"Oh yeah? That's good man, that's good."

"What about you? What are you doing now?"

"I'm a cop man."

"Shut up." I pulled my head back.

"Nah man, nah. I have my own construction company bro."

"Oh yeah? That's good."

"Yeah bro. And when things are a little slow, I'm still sellin' candy." He pulled one side of his jean jacket open and tugged at the top of a zip-lock bag sticking out of his inside pocket. "Need any candy bro?"

"No, I'm good." I smiled.

Mark slapped my arm and handed me my shot.

"Alright bro, it was cool seein' ya. Take it ease."

"Yeah, you too. Take care."

We shook hands and Ryan walked away.

Mark scrunched his eyebrow. "Who the fuck was that?"

"Holy shit…I haven't seen that guy since like grade ten."

"He was fuckin' huge."

"Yeah, I know. The last time I saw him, he was about the same size as me. That guy got suspended like once a month when he was in my grade nine class. Anyway, what's in this?" I held the shot under my nose and sniffed.

"I don't know, but it smells fuckin' nasty."

We clanked our shot glasses together and poured our shots down our throats.

Mark pounded his fist on the bar. "Ahhhh."

I placed my shot glass on the bar. "Ugh."

***

My right hand shields my eyes from the powerful sun as my car rolls down the slope of the Mississauga Road bridge that hurdles Highway 403. I coast quickly down the hill and I think about how bad that shot at J.J. Muggs tasted. Ugh.

I jerk my head quickly to the right when, out of the corner of my eye, I see a police cruiser parked on the side street at the bottom of the hill.

I yank my foot off the gas pedal and hit the brake. I look at my speedometer. Fuck…70. I hold down the brake pedal until I slow to 50. I hold the steering wheel. I hold my head still and stare at the parked police car in my rearview mirror. I hold my breath. The police car slowly inches forward. I watch a blue car roll down the hill, pass the police car, and turn left onto a side street. The police car turns out onto Mississauga Road. Maybe he's going after the blue car…mmm…nope. Fuck! Goddamn it! That's three speeding tickets on Mississauga Road this fucking year. Goddamn it. There goes my next paycheck. Fuck. I look back at the police car way in the distance behind me. I can lose him. I can drive around this curve, speed up, and turn onto that side street where I park when we play baseball at Sawmill Valley. I pull my foot off the gas pedal and push the steering wheel up with my thumb as I roll down the curved slope. I look at my rearview mirror and see the police car whip around the corner and down the slope. I coast past the street where I park when we play baseball at Sawmill Valley and press my foot on the gas as my car trudges up an incline in Mississauga Road. The traffic light at the Mississauga Road-Burnhamthorpe intersection flicks from yellow to red. I look in my rearview mirror. The police car drives up and stops behind me. I watch the officer stare at the back of my head. The light turns green. I drive through the intersection. I watch the lights on top of the police car - still off. I watch my speedometer. When the needle reaches 50, I push the cruise control button and ease my foot off the gas pedal. I watch the police car speed up behind me. I look at the road in front of me - almost there. Almost there. In the distance, I see the yellow flashing light at the North Entrance. Almost there. I look in my rearview mirror. The police car is so close behind me that I can't see its front bumper. He's tailgating me. He's fucking tailgating me. I look at my speedometer - I'm doing 52. What the fuck?!? Isn't tailgating a traffic offence? I watch the lights on top of the police car…still off. I look forward and see the U of T North Entrance on the left. I flick the signal indicator down. I brake. I slowly turn left. I watch my rearview mirror. I wait. I wait. The police car continues straight down Mississauga Road. I shake my head and drive to the parking lot.

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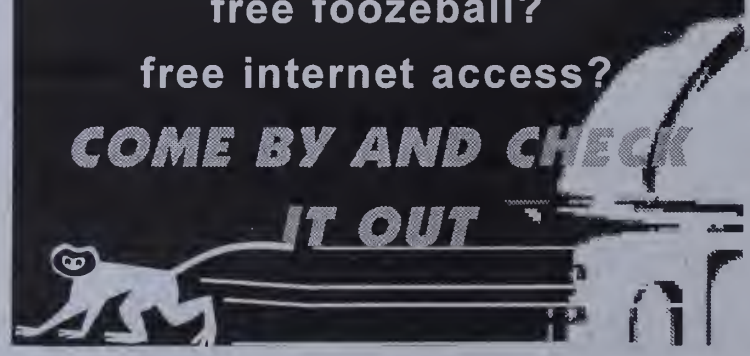

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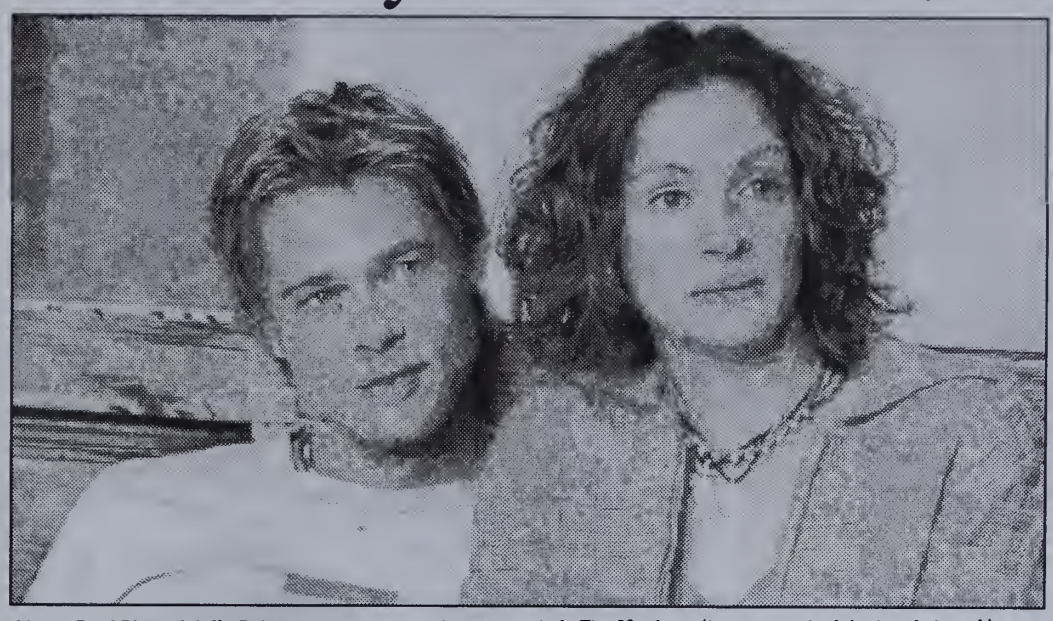
Arts & Entertainment

Pitt and Roberts freely cross *The Mexican*'s border

MOVIE REVIEW

By Jennifer Matotek



Above: Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts star as a quarrelsome couple in The Mexican. (In case you hadn't already heard.)

Believe it or not, *The Mexican* doesn't really focus on the relationship between Brad Pitt's character, Jerry, and Julia Roberts' character, Sam. And it's much better this way because when the two of the them do share screen time together, you get bored by how similar they are and annoyed by how they fight all the time over stupid things, like who's "blame-shifting." Instead, director Gore Verbinski focuses on the relationship between Roberts and her kidnapper, Leroy (James Gandolfini.) It's a smart idea because Gandolfini is such a great actor that whoever you pair him up with gets to look good.

The Mexican follows the story of two lovers, Jerry and Sam, on the brink of a dead-end in their relationship. Sam (Roberts) wants the two of them to go to Vegas so they can start a new life, while Jerry, owes one last favour to a mob boss. Jerry must go to Mexico to retrieve a heralded gun, referred to as "The Mexican." Every time the story behind "The Mexican" is told to the audience, the film goes all sepia-toned, and every time the story behind "The Mexican" is told to the audience, it's a completely different story.

So, naturally, when Jerry goes to find this fabled object, fate works against him, so his mob bosses send a co-worker to find out what's going on.

Meanwhile, Sam's headed off to Vegas alone, only to get kidnapped by a sweet-hearted thug, Leroy (James Gandolfini,) in the public washroom of a shopping mall. The idea is that by kidnapping Sam, the mobsters will get back the gun. This is when the movie starts to get really interesting, as the film begins to focus on the relationship between Sam and Leroy, instead of just focusing on Jerry's unfortunate adventures in Mexico. Somehow, *The Mexican* convinces the audience that Leroy really is a sweet-hearted criminal who only kills people because he has to. Leroy develops a really gradual, genuine bond with Sam over the course of the film, as the two of them giggle in diners about sex and relationships, and get drunk in hotel rooms. Jerry's experiences in Mexico are also pretty amusing, as Jerry befriends a vicious but sweet dog, discovers the inner conflicts between his crime bosses, and thinks he can easily convert Spanish to English by adding an "o" to the end of everything.

One thing I appreciated most about this film was it's opening scene. It's one long shot that's about two minutes long. It should be boring, but it's not. It ambiguously and entertainingly sets up the entire premise for the film, without using any dialogue, or even showing what happens. The only thing that changes in the entire frame is the traffic light. I think part of the reason why this film succeeds is because Gore Verbinski makes the audience care about inanimate objects, infusing the audience's sympathy and interest into the plight of the Mexican gun, empty soft-drink cups, changing traffic lights, and incorrect passports. Essentially, the objects in this film become as engaging as the characters because they become so essential in moving the plot forward.

This movie could have been really terrible, but luckily, it wasn't. The film's premise is well-written, well-executed, and surprisingly stylish. I also wasn't expecting the film to be so long - it was well over two hours - but it was action-packed, with great characters, and an interesting story, so there were only a few points in the movie that really dragged. I wasn't expecting such verve from a second-time director, although the film was bloodier than I had anticipated. So *The Mexican* should do well in the box office, considering it's popular co-stars, great story, and tasty blend of comedy, action and romance.

Above: James Gandolfini steals *The Mexican* out of his co-stars hot little hands.

Survivor watch: Alligator tease generates burning sensations

TV REVIEW

By Robert Chan

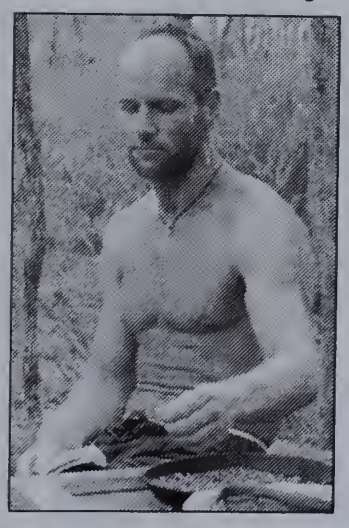
No immunity challenge and a trial by fire. What's that about? Last Thursday's episode started off with Kucha battling the millionth storm in *Survivor*'s history. Meanwhile, in the Ogakor camp, Tina Bopper breaks up a cat-fight between Keith and Jerri, otherwise known as Sue and Kelly, by calling a timeout. Amber and Jerri discuss the intricacies of chocolate, sex, and meatball subs while Jerri pounds on her personal drum. Wait a minute. Didn't Kel get kicked off for that?

Kucha goes on PETA's number one hit list, again, by eating all the chicken feed and starving the poor hapless bird. Mike talks about living off the land, finding his own food and making his own heat. That's right Mike, between the chickens, matches, planted pork, and Mountain Dew product placements, you guys have it rough.

The Award Challenge sees Ogakor expertly preparing by doing Yoga. Kucha, for some unknown reason, decides that wasting time blind-folded is much more productive. Amber and Keith uselessly walk into non-existent trees due to Jerri's excellent directions, while Colby screams for Jerri's help. The former useless one, Nick, actually ends up giving good directions, and Kucha takes the Dew. Temper Tantrum Colby splashes Jerri with water, and in true Jerri fashion, she thanks him for it.

To give and to receive. Ouch. Mike definitely received. What happened to the crocodile? Oh yeah, they forgot to plant one like they did the pig. Ironically, Jeff – Mr. Laugh-at-other-people's-pain – seemed the most disturbed by the burning. Was the cheering by Ogakor really necessary when Jerri approached the tribe? Jeff, in his infinite wisdom, tells us how Ogakor must be relishing the fact that a Kucha member was 'evacuated,' hardcore style.

Next week we see 'the merger.' Coincidentally the tribes are even at five a piece and the ever scientific dice roll picks Colby as the next bootee. Personally, I have to agree with the dice as Jerri looks like she'll jump ship and cause all the mad havoc that she was so eloquently talking about. Be happy guys, Amber and Elisabeth both made it to 'the merger.'



Above: Poor Mike. One week he's plastering his face with pig's blood, the next week, he's passing out into fires. Is *Survivor* actually *reality* television? Who actually cares?

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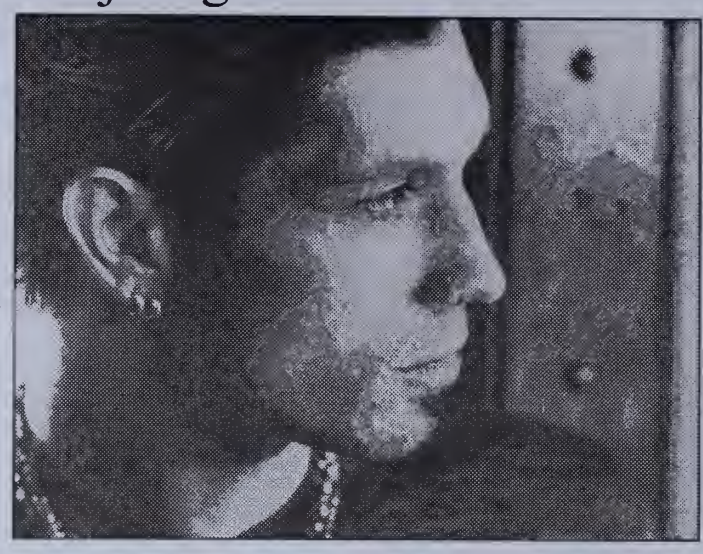
Poor Li'l Rockstar j. englishman aims to win Juno for Best New Solo Artist

INTERVIEW

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK

In case you hadn't heard of this *poor li'l rockstar*, Canadian performer j. englishman was nominated as Best New Solo Artist at the 2001 Juno Awards on Sunday, March 4th. The buzz on englishman began during his 1998 Canadian Music Week performance with his former band, **Tomorrow The World**. The buzz continued this summer as the first single, "More," from his first solo album, *poor li'l rockstar*, recieved heavy airplay this summer. Playing a great opening set last April for I Mother Earth's former lead singer, Edwin, also probably helped to boost his popularity. I had a chance to chat with the Toronto musician on Friday, when he called me from a payphone at Coffee Time.



Above: Despite boasts about his twelve-inch cock, Canadian muscician j. englishman has opted to find fame as a rock star, instead of fame as a porn star.

Medium: So what kind of music do you listen to?
j. englishman: Anything.

M: What was the first thing you did when you found out you were nominated for a Juno?
J: I was at the conference and I started pumping my fist in the air. Everyone was like, calm down, guy, it's not over yet, you weirdo.

M: I don't mean to sound rude by asking this, or anything, but why do you think you deserve to win the Juno for Best New Solo Artist?
J: Wow. Nobody's had the balls to ask me that question yet. I don't have an answer for that question. Why should I win? Because my cock is so big. There's actually a separate Juno category for rockstars with 12 inch cocks, you know.

M: How did you get started as a live musician?
J: My mom bought me my first guitar when I was 14. At 15, I played at bars. My mom wrote me a note. My friends and I actually had a cover band. All our moms wrote notes so we could play. It was great.

M: So where are you originally from?
J: I'm actually from all over. I've lived in Kingston, Burlington, Walkerton, Northern Quebec, all over.

M: Why the lower case letters in your name?
J: I liked the way that it looked. I was also too lazy to have someone design a logo for it. Some people thought it was pretty pretentious or whatever, but I was like, fuck off. It just looks cool.

M: What are your plans for your upcoming album?
J: I'm actually in the middle of writing right now. I was just sitting in my studio working. We're aiming for January of next year. I'm aiming to be done by June or so, so I can do some co-writing, co-production. Stuff like that.

M: I noticed the Vonnegut quotation inside the cover of poor l'il rockstar. What's your favorite Kurt Vonnegaut novel?
J: Bluebeard. That's the novel that the quote is from. It's the only Vonnegut novel with the remotely happy ending. Unfortunately, it was only the third or fourth Vonnegut novel I'd ever read, so it changed my expectations. Then, when I read moreVonnegut and the endings were all sad, it was like, oh man!

M: Some Canadian rock stars (ie. Matthew Good) want to deny to the puhlic that they even have an "image." How conscious are you of crafting your public image?
J: I just am who I am. If the public doesn't like it, they can bugger off. But I'm not going to run around wearing kid's shoes and kabuki make-up or anything.

M: Is fame and celebrity important to you?
J: Yeah, actually. Fame is important. I want to play Madison Square Gardens. I don't think there's anybody in this business who doesn't want to be famous. It's too much work to not want fame in some way.

M: Do you have any advice for young musicians? Whose cocks should they be sucking in the music industry?
J: Don't suck any cock. Build up the muscles in your middle finger instead. It's the people who tell you that you suck who make you stronger.

M: I'm sorry to have to ask this cheezy question, hut how do you feel ahout the current Canadian music scene?
J: I'll answer that question the way I usually answer it. What is the Canadian music scene? Is it Esthero or Skinny Puppy? Is it Jann Arden or Bryan Adams? People can listen to whatever they want to.

M: Do you think Canadian Content Laws (Con Can) helps new musicians like yourself?
J: Con Can does make a difference, but I'm not sure if I entirely agree with the idea. I can't complain though, because it did seem to help me this year.

M: How do you feel about Napster?
J: I like Napster. Actually, I love Napster. I gotta tell you: I use Napster to download songs, so I can sample breakbeats for my songs. I'm a total pirate.
I think they should charge for the service, though, since what they're doing technically is theft.

M: What's your favorite word?
J: Hmm... I really don't think I can answer that question.

M: Then what's your favorite breakfast food?
J: Honey Nut Cheerios.

M: What's your favorite part of living in Toronto?
J: Queen Street.

M: You're okay with how pretentious and weird it is?
J: I've lived down here for ten years, so I'm used to the pretentious weirdness of downtown Toronto.

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Part 2: New Northern Blues label features Canadian musical talent

CONCERT REVIEW

BY DANIEL BULLOCK

Rita Chiarelli has been singing since early childhood, and her skill has earned her fame here in Canada, the US, and Italy. While she may not quite have the energy of JW-Jones performing live, she is no less enthusiastic and has a more refined sound. Rita writes most of her own songs: blues, touched with old rock and country.

She has a successful cover of Elvis's "Hound Dog," but I count myself as a Presley non-fan. Before you let the "country" bit turn you off though, I should add that Rita's music is varied, and still classified as the blues. Rita's impressive vocal range and ability as a songwriter make her a valuable part of the Canadian music scene, and it's no surprise she tied for Female Vocalist of the Year in the 1999 Maple Blues awards.

Otis Taylor, who is perhaps the most famous artist under Northern Blues, has a far darker feel. While most of the groups play upbeat songs about love, Otis's music is generally serious and almost spiritual in nature. Although he is not Canadian, unlike the other artists on Northern Blues, his distinct style was something they were willing to take the risk on. He sings roots blues, and the level of discrimination Africans-Americans faced in the past. Otis himself is an amazingly talented musician, and he is supported by world famous bassist, Kenny Passarelli and Eddie Turner on electric slide and lead guitar. His rendition of "Hey Joe" easily gave Jimi Hendrix a run for the money, especially with Eddie's talent on slide guitar. Although Otis has been playing since 1964, he has only released three CDs, which is a pity. Fortunately, Northern Blues has proved quite agreeable to him, and more albums are to come.

Above: Otis Taylor and Rita Chiarelli (above right) are local blues musicians who've recently been signed to the new Canadian record label, Northern Blues.

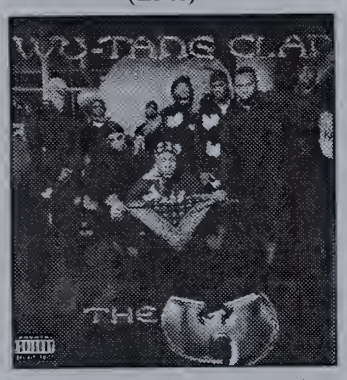
Otis Taylor's latest album, "White African," is available now in stores or at www.northernblues.com, and his previous album, "When Negroes Walked The Earth" can be downloaded free at www.otis-taylor.com. Rita Chiarelli's CD, "Breakfast at Midnight" is scheduled for release on April 3rd, and a sample can be found at the Northern Blues site.

The Northern Blues Music launch party took place on Tuesday, February 21st.

CD REVIEW

BY JASON LEE

The Wu-Tang Clan
The W
(EMI)



The new Wu have made another debut on *The W*, an album that's innovative both in title and in content. Clearly different from their last pretentious effort, *Wu-Tang Forever*, *The W* has little of that impertinent self-righteous solipsism in this tight, 13 track CD.

Although their new album is different, their beats are as innovative as their flows are bizarre. "Hollow Bones" manipulates ghoulish soul to chilling effect, and thunderous horns mark the intro of "One Blood Under W." On "Careful (click click)," sparse beats play with some weird underwater sounds. In "I can't go to sleep," **Ghostface Killah** rhymes and rambles on about the struggles of street life overtop of an orchestral thump. The annoying "Conditioner," featuring **Snoop Dogg**, sounds like it was recorded over a dial tone phone.

So the majority of the songs have a great catchy melody, as they use jazz-like sounds and melodies with a variety of beats and rhythms ranging from fast paced to slower R&B beats. But the album's first two singles, "Protect Ya Neck (The Jump Off)" and "Gravel Pit" featuring **Ghostface Killah** and **Method Man**, remind us of that old Wu-Tang style everyone once enjoyed.

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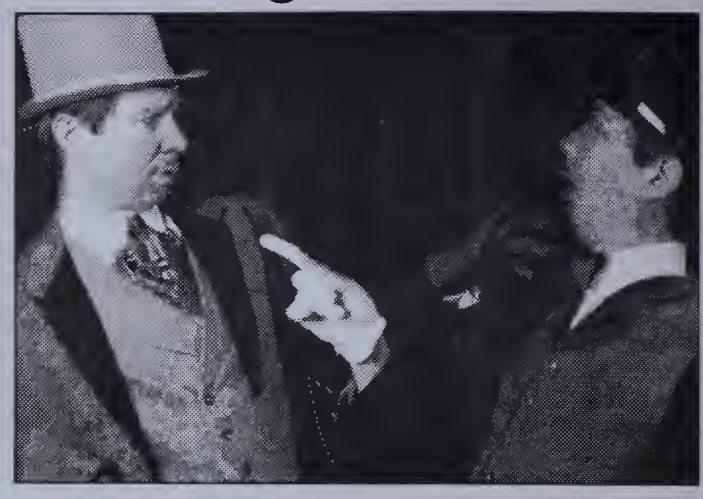
A Flea In Her Ear leaves audiences scratching for something more modern

THEATRE REVIEW

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK



Above: Diego Matamoros plays dual roles in the Mirvish and Soulpepper co-production of George Feydeau's *A Flea In her Ear*, directed by Laszlo Marton.

It's bizarre that contemporary audiences would still be interested in watching French farces from a century ago. But many modem stage comedies by Neil Simon, as well as films by the Farrelly brothers, rely on similar devices as farces do for audience laughs, churning out tales of mistaken identities filled with gross-out humour, colourful characters, dry wit, and "punny" word plays.

The Mirvish's presentation of Soulpepper Theatre Company's *A Flea In Her Ear* contains all of these required comedic/farcical ingredients, but it's script date - 1907 - makes it a little too early for any sort of explicit contemporary humour. So it's up to director Laszlo Marton to take this somewhat stale, George Feydeau translation and make it vital for a modem audience. He almost succeeds.

A Flea In Her Ear tells the complicated story of Raymond Chandebise (Liisa Repo-Martell), who thinks her husband, Victor Emmanuel (Diego Matamoros), must be cheating on her just because he won't "rise" to the occasion anymore, so to speak. So she enlists the help of Lucienne Homenides de Histangua (Colombe Demers) to write a fake love letter to her husband, and concoct a scheme to see if he will meet the mysterious mistress at a dubious hotel. Naturally, once the entire cast gets crammed into the same seedy hotel by an act of chance, chaos ensues.

The big problem with farce, as I see it, is the issue of truth, and how it conflicts with the audience's desire for escapism. One hundred years ago, tales of mistaken identities were cool because they exploited the possibilities of stage work. Audiences bought into the myth of the theatre as a magical place, a place where it was truly incredible to watch something as simple as someone exiting the stage from the right side, only to appear, incredibly, on stage left seconds later.

Director Laszlo Marton really does try to 'jazz' up the dated farce of *A Flea In Her Ear*, filling the set with occasional bouts of crazy black lighting, cheesy melodrama, stiltedly energetic choreography, and graphic physicalizations of subtly scripted humour. He's also tried to take some risks, which is admirable, allowing his cast to swing from chandeliers, and throw props so close to the edge of the stage, you'd think they might land somewhere in the audience.

Unfortunately, some audience members probably didn't notice any of this, since many older gentlemen surrounding me in the mezzanine nodded off to sleep over the course of the production. Of course, there were many other people sitting around me who truly enjoyed this production, and laughed heartily at every funny moment.

I think *A Flea In Her Ear* could have been a more successful production if it tried to reach an unexpected level of stage humour by being more implicit, instead of explicit. It also might have helped if I actually cared about what was going on with all of the characters. What Marton fails to achieve in this challenging farce is a plausible, yet energetic, level of truth, which is difficult to accomplish considering that the genre of farce is underpinned with melodrama. Instead of offering a plausible solution to this production's staging, I'll use a terrible cliché: "better luck next time."

A Flea In Her Ear plays at the Royal Elgin Theatre until April 8th.

In The Mood For Love makes movie audiences participate in a love affair

MOVIE REVIEW

BY LAURENCE CYMET

Above: A beautiful still from director Won Kar-Wai's *In The Mood For Love.*

In The Mood For Love is a beautiful exploration of love, monogamy and infidelity. It requires repeated viewings, and leaves you feeling as if you've experienced as much as the characters in the film. Part of its beauty comes from its simplicity and focus, and the way it provides only required information to tell a simple love story, and communicate the emotions involved in a very powerful way.

In The Mood For Love tells the story of Mrs. Chan and Mr. Chow, who both move into the same tenement, and both have a partner that never seems to be there. They both seem to live alone, from the film's perspective, as their spouses are never completely shown to the viewer and kept ghostlike. Both the spouses gradually dissapear from the film as Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan both realize their loved ones are having an affair with one another. We follow Mr. Chan and Mrs. Chow through their daily lives, as they pass each other through the cramped hallways of their existence. Gradually, the two fall into an intense love affair that potentially mirrors their spouses' affair, becoming a treatise in restraint and loneliness - they fall completely in love, but their environment and values hold them back from truly embracing each other.

Half of the story is told through the photography of Kar-Wai and cinematographer Christopher Doyle, as the audience voyeuristically witnesses their simple love affair through gratings, windows or the reflections of mirrors. Kar-Wai makes the audience feel almost as though they are the ones having a secret affair with the film itself, as we are never entirely able to embrace the object of our affections, and must survive with only passing glances and casual touches.

The film is shot in beatifully vivid colour and lit in a way that describes the intensity of the character's deepest emotions, capturing the movement of cigarette smoke, or the blowing of curtains in an empty hallway. The film is told as much through the characters as it is told through the environments they co-inhabit. The slow movements and shatter-proof facade of Mrs. Chan tell the moral of the film without uttering a word. Tony Leung gives an equally powerful performance as Mr. Chow, whose mournful hopefulness gives the story more impact. Every tiny element of the film obsessively revolves around Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan's love affair.

In The Mood For Love tracks time in an interesting fashion as well – every new day brings an astounding new dress from Mrs. Chan that keeps the viewer waiting for the next one, and each day is looped with the next by similar topic in conversation, or visual elements. Amazingly, nothing really happens in this film – but the simple intricacies in their everyday lives that Kar-Wai displays tell a story that burns right through you, unlike any computer-animated asteroid. The lovers' intimacy is told through suggestions and ideas – Kar-Wai crafts the story and its emotions in the viewer's mind through subtle and masterful prompts on the screen, as opposed to spoon-feeding us the story. *In the Mood For Love* is as beautiful as it is revolutionary, and is a must-see for anyone who has been looking for an unconventional romance.

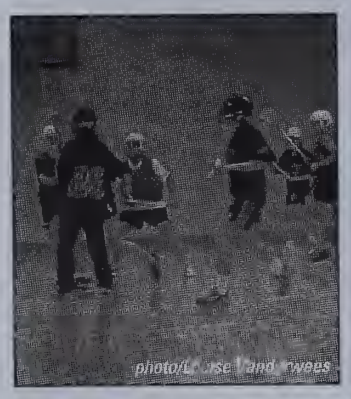
SPORTS

Women's lacrosse team sits at first, for the first time

Eagles do it again

BY CHANDRA GILBERT

In the final game of the season, the UTM lacrosse team took on Phys Ed, the only team to beat UTM this year. The game started off strong with two goals by Erin Laporte to put the Eagles up 2-0. Phys Ed worked hard and scored a goal to close the gap to 2-1. Chandra Gilbert took the ball to the net before netting her ninth goal of the season making the score 3-1. The game was physical, and an injury to Theresa Sargeson stopped the game. First-aid diagnosed a pulled quad and shorted the already short bench by one player. This didn't deter the Lady Eagles from their goal. A goal by Gina Rajack put the girls up 4-1. However, a slick move by a Phys Ed player around Gilbert beat goalie Debbie Medeiros to close the gap to 4-2. Erin Sneek came on fire after the short break and scored two quick goals on scoop shots. Phys Ed scored two goals as well to bring the game to 6-4. The Lady Eagles put up a strong defence resulting in a few turnovers and two more goals, one by Rajack and the other by Sneek. This game showed the rest of the league the strength of this UTM squad. Strong passing and excellent defence allowed the girls to win this game. The Lady Eagles look forward to the playoff and the chance to win the lacrosse championship.



A change of pace: UTM is the number one lacrosse team, whereas last year, they only had one win.

Whyte out

BY CHANDRA GILBERT

On Tuesday a small group of UTM ladies went down to the AC to take on New College in Lacrosse action. Midterm stress didn't dampen the ladies' drive to win as the magic number three helped the team win. As a change in the lineup, Kerri Whyte took to the goal while Debbie Medeiros took to the floor. Strong play in the first half showed Erin Laporte cradle her way to the goal as she scored two in the first half. Gina Rajack scored on the New College goalie to make it 3-1 before New College scored again to make it 3-2. The Lady Eagles ended ahead at the half with a score of 4-2. The second half shows a flurry of scoring on both ends of the court as Erin Sneek caught fire and scored three. Laporte added one to her total and Chandra Gilbert finished her hat trick to give the ladies a 10-6 lead with five minutes to go. The ladies worked hard on defence, but New College's aggressive play netted them three more goals by the end of the game. Whyte played strong in net, gaining a compliment from one of the referees for her skill. Carolyn Noakes had a strong defensive game and felt frustrated as she was double teamed all night. Medeiros had a good game on the floor and set up a few of the goals. With this win, UTM sits at first place in the league.

Ready for the prom

BY A. FRANCESCA

The UTM women's interfaculty Division II basketball team finally got to play a game that counts. Last Monday, the Division II team took on Rotman/MBA at the Athletic Centre on the St. George Campus. Though they lost 20-18, the team showed real heart and much improvement since their 24-10 loss to Skule/New College. (That game was later ruled a default win, since two of the Skule/New College players also play in the Division 1 league). Getting some much needed baskets for UTM were Gina Rajack with seven, and Erin Sneek with four. Rajack and Sneek hit critical foul shots that kept the scoring race close. Also, players Debbie Medeiros, Erin Laporte and Laurie Brooks played well offensively, as well as defensively, running back numerous times to stop an aggressive Rotman team. Medeiros displayed great sportsmanship, not retaliating against a rough Rotman player that hit her hard in the face. Rookie Cheryl Penfold had an impressive showing in her first game with a huge clutch shot in the second half to bring the UTM squad within four. Down by five, fellow rookie Astrid Poei hit a tough three-point shot in the dying seconds. Unfortunately, the game ended 20-18, in favour of Rotman/MBA. After playing this game, the Division II team now knows what the competition is like and they are ready to face the next opponents. After all, they still have a 4-1 record.

Men end regular season in style

BY STEVE MANCHUR

UTM's men's Division 1 basketball team ended its regular season off in fine style with a convincing 87-54 annihilation of Engineering D. With the win, UTM finished the regular season with a record of 9-4 at fourth place in the twelve team league. UTM struggled early in the game with Engineering D, trying to wipe off the dust from the Reading Week break, but still held a twelve-point halftime lead. UTM went on a 18-2 run early in the second half to blow open the game, led by their full-court pressure defense. The only question that remained was whether UTM would be able to hit the century mark, which it fell way short of. A week earlier, UTM played its best game of the season by defeating then first-placed Scarborough College 90-76 at UTM. The victory was a bit of a redemption for UTM who lost their season opener at Scarborough by thirteen. Jason Gloger was a one man wrecking crew, and scored a season high twenty-eight points in the victory over Scarborough. Steve Chan popped in fifteen points, while Aman Dhillion and Andy Chen each scored twelve points in the victory. Baring unforseen circumstances, UTM will lose to Law in a quarter-final playoff game Thursday night at UTM. UTM lost a close 75-66 regular season game to Law, however UTM enters the game playing some of their best basketball of the year. The team has won seven out of their last eight games, with the only loss a seven point defeat to second placed OISE.

Varsity Blues win with UTM's help

BY ASTRID POEI

The University of Toronto Varsity Curling Teams captured two OUA championship titles in both the men's and women's divisions this past weekend in Kitchener. UTM student Allison Jermyn is a member of the women's championship squad. The women entered the OUA tournament with a 4-1 record. Coming off a playoff victory against the Windsor Lancers, the women beat Queens, Laurier, Brock and Western in round-robin action. This marks the first time that the Varsity Blues' women's squad have won the title. Congratulations Allison.

Interfaculty scores

Feb 26-Men's Div 2 Basketball
UTM 41, Sinai Slam 43

Feb 26-Men's Div 1 Basketball
UTM 87, Engineering 54

Feb 27-Men's Waterpolo
UTM 10, Innis/UC/Skule 0

Feb 27-Women's Div 2 V-ball
UTM won against UC (default)

Feb 27-Women's Div 1 V-ball
UTM 2, Victoria 0

Feb 27-Men's Div I Volleyball
UTM 0, Engineering 2

Feb 27-Women's Indoor Soccer
UTM 5, UC 3

Feb 27-Men's Indoor Soccer
UTM 10, Commerce 2

Mar 1-Men's Ice Hockey
UTM 3, Woodsworth 5

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Men's ball hockey quarter-final action

Agents scare Fierce in quarter-finals

BY SACHIN BHANDARI

The Free Agents advanced to the Division II finals with an 8-4 victory over Fierce, giving Jon Lee's squad their first victory of the season.

Taking nothing away from the Free Agents win, the story of the game was once again the no-shows for Fierce as they were forced to play the game with only one line. They had already lost once during the regular season by default, and almost did again until a forth player showed up only minutes before the game began.

Fierce actually put up a valiant effort despite being undermanned, leading 4-3 at one point early in the second half thanks to a hat-trick by Pierre Bejjani, but the fatigue finally became too much as the Free Agents were able to score the final five goals of the game. Peter Kaftarian played his best game of the season, scoring four goals, including three in the final half to seal the victory for the Agents. The Agents could have won by many more goals if not for great play by Adrian Milotic, the emergency goalie for Fierce. The Free Agents now advance to meet the highly favoured Goodfellas in the semi-finals, while Fierce, who were in their second year of existence, played their final game ever, much to the dismay of team captain and team founder Roj Koppuithara.

Fierce running scared...now that the Fierce are out of the playoff race, the Agents will face off against the Goodfellas in the semi-finals.

Renegades just dicking around

BY SACHIN BHANDARI

In ball hockey playoff action, the Renegades beat Big Richards last Monday 7-4 to advance to the division two semi-finals. After going winless during the regular season, the Renegades unveiled their very nice all-black uniforms and played their best game of the year to beat Big Richards, who were shellshocked by the surprising loss. Despite being picked by both commissioners to lose the game, the Renegades put together a solid offensive attack to go along with the solid goaltending they received from Steve Kornbluth, who filled in for Mike Kolcyn, the regular goaltender.

The Renegades opened the scoring on a shorthanded goal from Matt Capobianco, but Big Richards evened the score on the same powerplay on a goal from Shujjat Alikhan. The Renegades then took control of the game, scoring three straight goals, including a great goal by Patrick Chatelain, who managed to direct the ball into the net while sprawling on the ground. Big Richards came back, but trailed 5-4 at the half.

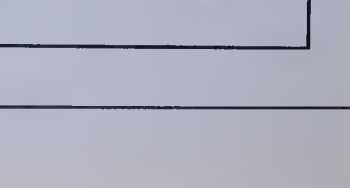
In the second half, Sacha Aziz, goalie for Big Richards, played much better after a brutal first half, but it wasn't enough as Capobianco scored two more goals to give the Renegades the 7-4 win. Kornbluth, who played forward during the regular season, shutout Big Richards in the second half and was helped by fine defensive play from Capobianco and John Slota, who were the best players on the floor. Capobianco ended up with four goals and two assists to lead the Renegades in scoring.

The Renegades now face Whoose Moongas, who they tied during the regular season. They should have a great shot at making the finals.

Untouchable Riopel gets Dragons the win

BY ASTRID POEI

You can't slay the Ljubljana Green Dragons. Or at least the Untouchables can't. The Dragons squared off against the Untouchables this week in men's ball hockey quarter-final action. The Dragons placed a great amount of pressure on an aggressive Untouchable squad. Drawing first blood for the Dragons was Jan Maw assisted by Steve Murphy, on a behind-the-back pass in front of the Untouchables net. The Dragons' Scott Baker then put it through the Untouchables' Dave Medeiros' legs from the point. The Dragons were up 3-0 on a goal by Murphy, before the Untouchables' Steve Ghose would solve a solid Mark Riopel – Riopel played an amazing game, stopping all shots by a frustrated Untouchables crew. On the other hand, teammate Darryl Sequiera played a less-than-stellar game, missing several opportunities in front of the net. [Ed's note: I'm afraid Erin's gloves weren't working for you Darryl.] His teammate, Yasser Firoozyan, did not miss his opportunity to score though, going top shelf on Medeiros. The Untouchables did manage to score for their second and last time on a two-on-one play. Paul Dimtsis earned the goal and Aman Mundi earned the assist. Up by two, the Dragons decided to ensure the win with Baker assisting Maw on the game's decisive blow. Final score, Dragons 5, Untouchables 2.



Goaltending was the deciding factor in the Dragons win over the Untouchables.

Leafs use H_2O Boyz as a raft

BY ASTRID POEI

For the first ten minutes of this game, the Waterboyz were right on the Leafs' heels. The Leafs scored first, when Pardeep Nagra went in unassisted. The Waterboyz countered with a goal of their own. Waterboy Chris DeAngelis scored, assisted by Patrick Mifsud. The Waterboyz would score again on a one-man advantage when Jean Pauluzzi took a penalty for interference. Waterboy Jarvis Gillingham scored, assisted by DeAngelis. That was their last goal though, as the Leafs went on to score eight unanswered goals for the next 30 minutes. The Leafs' Rajwinder Sandhu had four goals, while Nav Sohal had three and Massimo Giannobile added one. Nagra played an excellent game for the Leafs, killing penalties and earning an assist on almost each of the Leafs' goals. Both goalies, Sukhzant Dhillon of the Leafs and Sylvio Cadorin of the Waterboyz, are to be commended for their efforts during the game.

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Medeiros teaches Skule a lesson

BY A. FRANCESCA

Skule's out, UTM's in. Last Tuesday, the UTM women's interfaculty ice hockey team exercised some schoolyard tactics against the Engineers at Varsity Arena. UTM opened up strongly, stacking their first lineup with seniors Erin Laporte, Gina Rajack and Kim Shapcott, who provided excellent offence, while Emily Pond and Celine Mcdonald provided a stone-cold defence. UTM's bench also played an integral part, when halfway through the first period, rookie Astrid Poei tied up a Skule defender, so forward Rajack could bring the puck around the net. Rajack lifted the puck and put it past the Skule goalie for the only goal of the game. Meanwhile, in UTM's end, defenseman Chris Wade played a great game, keeping the puck out of UTM's zone. UTM's Chandra Gilbert and Sue Pfeiffer played well offensively, with Pfeiffer even drawing a penalty for the team – on a hard hit by a Skule player in the neutral zone. Centre Shapcott could not stay out of the box though, serving penalties for contact, and when a Skule player fell on her own.

Skule tried desperately to score on the man advantage, but UTM goalie Debbie Medeiros shut them down. Medeiros was in top condition and never allowed the puck to pass the pipes. She faced many difficult shots, including two crucial breakaway shots that she stopped, earning her the shutout and UTM the 1-0 win. This win guarantees UTM a fourth place finish in the regular season.

Fair play teams of the week

The Untouchables – lost a hard fought battle against the Ljubljana Green Dragons.

The Agents – pulled off an amazing win over the Fierce in quarter-final action this week.

Players of the week

DIVISION I – Pardeep Nagra (Leafs) – Nagra did some outstanding penalty killing, playing defence while scoring a goal and earning five assists in a 9-2 win over the Waterboyz.

DIVISION II – Matt Capobianco (Renegades) – Capobianco showed some playoff tenacity by scoring four goals while getting two assists in an upset win over the Big Richards.

The OZ line: men's ball hockey season heads into semi-finals

BY YASIN OZTURK

Semi-Finals Division II-West

The top contender in the West is the Goodfellas and Roberto's mates should roll to a comfortable win against the Agents. Of course, this is the playoffs and everything that should happen, may not. Look for the Agents to put up a good fight on the floor. Clayton Martin in goal for the "Fellas" will be the obvious difference in this one, while the "Fellas" offence will be too much for Cosentino (Goalie) of the Agents. The Goodfellas by 3.

Semi-Finals Division II-East

Whoose Moongas will find themselves in a rematch with the Renegades, the only team they didn't lose to in the regular season (tied 5-5). Of course, now the Renegades have a hard-earned playoff win under their belts as they rolled over the Big Richards, much to the surprise of onlookers in attendance. The Renegades were also without top prospect Niall Shanahan. Akamphuber and Brown seem to have their team in gear, and should shift on through the "Moongas", who, have no points off a win this season. Renegades by 2.

Semi-Finals Division I-West

HoLoHo slid into the second round of the playoffs with some consistent play, minus their final effort, and a lot of luck due to penalty minute skids of the other contenders. The prowess of the team will be put to the "semi"- final test in a rematch with the Leafs, who were the only team to defeat them in regular season play. The Leafs' defensive mastery, provided by Nagra and Dhillon, must be solved. This will be a towering task for the HoLoHo. Dunn and Giles will have to carry offensive weight in this one. On defence, scrappy and reliable Patterson will be back, but Minichillo's ankle injury will keep him out. Seow and Caza will have to prove the depth chart dependable, and if HoLoHo goaltender Kevin Spence has ever been tested it will be in this series. This is the playoffs, and the Leafs will take it up a notch, to say whether or not HoLoHo will be up to the task is shaky at this point. Leafs by two.

Semi-Finals Division I-East

What should probably be one of the better matchups in the playoffs, if not the best, is the Dragons vs. Fury second round clash. The Dragons have been on a crash course this year. Team leader Steve Murphy will look to rally Maw and the gang into giving the Fury a run for a spot in the final. Firoozyan and Baker will have to be equal to and above the challenge, while the Dragons' depth will be tested. Riopel will be proving his worth in this two-game – total-goals series. Sequiera also needs to kick things into high gear to complement his teammates. Sugar will need to show on defence, as he has done before. Carley and the gang look to put their drive to the test in this one. Along with Acedo and Worthington, the Fury boys will be looking to rip through this fight. Daly and Carrabs are always up to the task of deconstructing opposition dreams. Johnny Carrabs is the best there is. A collision of upstart rams and raging bulls, the principal will hear the echoes of thunder all the way to Lislehurst. Bottom line: When the dust settles, the Legacy will have withstood the test. Scoring is negligible here, Fury will be the team left standing.

The Beast from the East

BY JON LEE

After the sudden death games only one top seed survived. Big Richards, Fierce and the Waterboyz all bowed out as the top seeds without a bye. The Dragons, who beat the Untouchables, are the lone second place seed to move on with the Agents, Leafs and Renegades onto the next round. Now the big boys get to play after a week's rest. These two-game series where you win by total goals will offer some great goaltending duels and a spotlight on the Elite Scorers of the Men's Intramural Ball Hockey league. It was a 3-1 week in picks so let's get to it.

Series of the Week-Fury Vs. Dragons: This is the Stanley Cup of the League right here already. These teams thrive on great goaltending, a short bench that hustles, and strong scorers. Fury had the break so they should come out strong in game one.

Adam Daly and Mike Acedo led their teams in playoff scoring last year while Chris Carrabs and Bruce Worthington have the experience. To counter, the Dragons have Jan Maw, playoff star Yasser Firoozyan and Eric Sugar. The match-up here is between the goalies. Who's better than Steve Murphy, who led all scorers in the West?

> The match-up here is between the goalies.

Maybe Neal Carley who's a proven all-around player and may be the key to containing Murphy. The big difference will be in net. John Carrabs is the Brodeur of the league. He was undefeated during the regular season and shuts down teams on his own. Mark Riopel of the Dragons is consistent and will play both games, while John is questionable for Game 2. A tough choice, but it might even come down to maybe even a shootout. If so, Fury has the better depth. Fury onto the finals.

Fury by one goal in Game 1. Dragons by one goal in Game 2. Fury in a shootout win.

The other Division I matchup may not be as close since HoLoHo must face their nightmare in the form of the Leafs. Pat Quinn would die if he had the team Harpal Panglia has assembled. With MVP candidate Rajwinder Sandhu and Nav Sohal lighting it up, Massimo Giannobile's hardest shot, and Cujo clone Sukhzant Dhillon tending the pipes, it's no wonder HoLoHo was beat up 5-0 during the regular season.

This team plays both ways but it will be a test of endurance, which HoLoHo can do. Yasin Ozturk has been playing good but he needs "Stone Cold" Kevin Spence to have monster games, and his big players last year must step up. Can Ryan Dunn get it done? Will the real Adam Giles please stand up? Dean Graham could be a dark horse factor as well, but HoLoHo may be in for the long haul. Leafs to meet Fury in the Finals.

Leafs by 3 goals in Game 1. HoLoHo will narrow the gap to two goals, but Leafs win the series by 2.

Division II offers yours truly's Agents against a real-deal opponent in the Goodfellas. They can't be happy to have just missed the Division I playoffs and will look to take it all in Division II. Agent Peter Kaftarian has picked up his game, scoring 4 goals against Fierce.

All-star Greg Clarence should be back to help the cause, and this team is full of talent to give the Goodfellas a good run. Dark horse help could come from Robi Frankovic. Yet even with all that, Goodfellas have a huge edge (in net) with tough Clayton Martin in net. He keeps his team in tough games while former Agent Belal "Iron" Skeik, captain Sheldon Martin and Mike Burgress supply the offence. Unless the goaltending keeps up for the Agents, this could be the end of them. Take the Goodfellas in a good ol' slobberknocker.

Goodfellas by 3 goals in game 1. Game 2 they extend the lead for a 4 goal series win.

Finally there's the rematch of the new kids on the block, Whoose Moongas versus the Renegades. These teams tied in the regular season, so look for a close game. Jon Brown is always a strong scorer, but it's the emergence of playoff star Matt Capobianco that will make Moongas think twice. Add the fact that the Renegades added from the Waterboyz's Niall Shanahan, who had 6 assists during the regular season, this could be a lethal combination.

> Jon Brown is always a strong scorer, but it's the emergence of playoff star Matt Capobianco that will make Moongas think twice.

So what can team star Cory Johnson do for the Moongas? He had 9 points this season, but he'll need his teammates to help, like Jason Stuckless and captain Chris Pedro. Netminders will probably be a non-factor, but if either Mike Kolcyn of the Renegades or Oliver Lea of Whoose Moongas show that they can make the saves, this could be a sleeper series of the bunch. Again, this one I see in a shootout, with Renegades moving on due to more depth in scoring.

Whoose Moongas by 2 goals in game 1. Renegades tie it up in game 2. Renegades win the series in a shootout.

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4) As approved by a previous referendum, SAC is authorized to request increases of up to **10%** in the SAC Health Plan Fee. Next year, this would result in an increase of **$6.08** from **$60.75** to **$66.83** (plus applicable taxes). Based on negotiations, if limited by this amount, prescription drug coverage would be reduced from an **80%** reimbursement to a **70%** reimbursement.

SAC is seeking your approval for a larger increase in the fee in order to maintain current coverage.
Are you in favour of an increase of **$12.76** (plus applicable taxes) in the SAC Health Plan Fee (paid by all full-time undergraduate students each academic year) beginning in the fall/winter 2001/02 academic year in order to maintain current prescription drug coverage?

5) Are you in favour of one-year-only increase of **$1.00** in the SAC fee (paid by all full-time undergraduate students each academic year) in the fall/winter 2001/02 academic year to facilitate funding multi-faith prayer space?

6) At present, all full-time undergraduate students pay each academic year a **$1.25** fee to The Varsity newspaper approved by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto.
In your opinion, should the **$1.25** Varsity fee be eliminated?

Issued on the authority of Paul Kutasi, Chief Returning Officer, 2001

SAC ELECTIONS 2001 ATTENTION ALL FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATES

SPRING 2001 ELECTION DATES • GET INVOLVED AT U OF T, RUN FOR A POSITON ON SAC!

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO-STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Nominations Period #2 Open	Thursday, March 1st at 9am
Nominations Period #2 Closes	Friday, March 2nd at 5pm
Campaigning Begins	Monday, March 5th at 12:01am
UTS Elections Forum	Monday, March 12th, 2001
St. George Elections Forum	Tuesday, March 13th, 2001
UTM Elections Forum	Wednesday, March 14th, 2001
Campaigning Ends	Sunday, March 18that 11:59pm
Week of Election Begins	Monday, March 19th, 2001
Week of Election Ends	Friday, March 23rd, 2001

Pick up nomination forms at any SAC office or visit: www.sac.utoronto.ca

Check out the section with detailed information on how to vote via rosi

For an up to date list of Available seats, please visit www.sac.utoronto.ca

Vote via the web at www.rosi.utoronto.ca